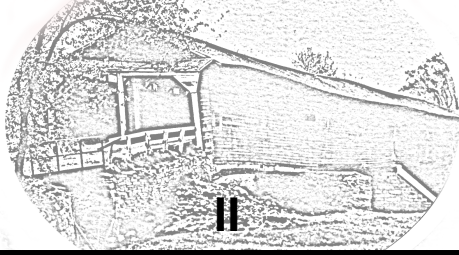


ECHOES OF FISH HOUSE



JULY 2023

Summer Breakfast Dates
July 30th & Sept. 3rd

WWW.FHCC.WEEBLY.COM

WELCOME BACK!!!!

It has been a long three years with no summer events. We have missed all of our Fish House neighbors and visitors. We are so glad to welcome you back to our breakfasts as well as our rummage sale.

Rummage Sale 2023

The Fish House Community Center Rummage sale was started by the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) that met regularly at the center. The first recorded rummage sale was July 3rd, 1968. The WSCS continued to have the annual rummage and food sale but then in 1973, the FHCC minutes said the rummage sale was run by the church. (The Methodist Church) Technically, the Community Center rummage sale has been ongoing since 1968, for 55 years! (Minus 3 years due to Covid)

Shirt & Sweatshirt Sale

This year's T Shirts are a beautiful light blue. Our sweatshirts are black. The prices are \$15 per T Shirt and \$35 per sweatshirt. Buy them while they last.

Little Free Library



The little free library, on the outside wall of the Center has been going on for years. We try to keep it open all year round, unless the snow gets too high. After all the book donations from the rummage sale, there are a lot of new selections.

FHCC Breakfasts



The breakfasts are back!! While you are filling up your plates, please notice the new, bigger window to the kitchen as well as the wider countertops! Our volunteers are amazing!

Buy raffle tickets for a T Shirt or a gift basket. There is also a wonderful separate raffle where you can win a night at an Adirondack Lodge.

Fish House Community Center History

The community center was a two room school house that was built in 1909. It continued to be a school until 1958. The FHCC was first known as the Fish House Methodist Community Center. The first recorded minutes found were Oct. 16, 1959. They met in members' homes until improvements were made on the Center. In March of 1960, the minutes had dropped the word Methodist, from their title. The early FHCC members of the center were big names in Fish House history. Anna Ahrens, George Buell, Jerry Crannell, Gerald Moore, Margaret Oaksford, Robert Pickering, Mary Seeley, Kathryn Sleezer and George Stead. Without their hard work, dedication and commitment we would not have the community center that we have today.

FHCC SIGN

In May of 1960, Gerald Moore asked Robert Vandenburg to paint the sign that is above the entrance to the community center.

It has been freshened up over the years, but it is still the original sign.



Bottle & Can Returns

During the three years of no summer events, it was neighbors donating their bottles and cans that made it possible for the FHCC to pay their bills. Thank you so much! Please continue to drop off your bottles & cans.

Go to FHCC.weebly.com for FHCC news



During the summer of 2020, when everyone was worried about contracting Covid, I decided to work on restoring the Fish House Presbyterian Cemetery. It is the little cemetery next to the old brick Presbyterian Church on Cty. Hwy. 109.

Many of the gravestones were black with age. After much researching, I used a solution

called D2 Biologic, which safely cleans old stones. As the gravestones revealed themselves, I was struck by their beauty, the lovely and heartbreaking engraved poems and also the symbols. During the early 19th century, gravestone art evolved to represent promise of an afterlife and mourning.

The oldest grave is 1803, it is the gravestone of the son of Deacon Abraham Beecher Jr, who with Isaac Noyes was responsible for the church being built. The last person to be buried was the daughter of John Fay, Sarah Fay Cunningham. She was buried in 1862.

There are 70 gravestones in the cemetery. Sadly half of them belong to children under the age of eight. One of the main doctors of Fish House, Dr. Alvah Wood, buried 6 of his children there.

Volunteers have since helped in cleaning the stones, planting flowers, restoring broken stones, donated the fence and the sign.

Joanne Blaauboer email: fishhouse1762@gmail.com
Deputy Historian of Northampton

Fish House Presbyterian Cemetery Connections to History

Andrus, Mary - her 4X great grandfather was one of the founder of Hartford, CT

Beecher, Abraham Jr. deacon of Pres. Church and helped build the first one. He was cousin to Harriet Beecher Stowe

Beecher, Lydia - her 3X great grandfather was on the Mayflower and the last survivor

Damon, Indamorah - her brother fought in the Civil War

Farrar, Rev. Joseph - Third reverend of this church

Fay, John - 16th US Congressman, built first brick structure in Fish House, Fayville named for him

Greenman, Charles - his grandfather, Jeremiah, Revolutionary War soldier and published a diary about the war

Hadley, Eliza - her great grandfather, was Capt. Elijah Buell who was in the Revolutionary War

Marvin, David - private in the Revolutionary War, father of Dr. Langdon Marvin

Maxwell, Squire - Minuteman in Revolutionary War

Shew, Truman - trained by Samuel Morse in daguerrotype photography, died due to mercury

St. John, Seymour - West Point Cadet, one of the founders of the Saratoga County Fair

Spaulding, Lucius - his sister, Mary, married Lewis Bennett who started the Buffalo Cement Company and developed the neighborhood, in Buffalo, called Central Park.

This Fish House Presbyterian Cemetery is open to the public. Park well off the side of the road. Wander around and learn about our history.

Gravestones are still being restored, so be careful where you wander.



Victorian Influence in the Cemetery

Most of the gravestones in the Fish House Presbyterian Cemetery are rectangular and plain. Around 1837, the beginning of the Victorian Era, gravestones started to have ornate engravings and symbols as well as poems.



The shape of the stone also evolved. There are about 12 gravestones with more ornate shapes. Seven gravestones have a willow tree engraved on them. The willow tree symbolizes eternal life. Other Victorian symbols found here are fruit trees, urns, a cross, curtains and a finger pointing up to heaven.

The Presbyterian Church of Fish House

The church was built as a wooden structure in 1816 after an 1814 revival held at that location. Isaac Noyes and Abraham Beecher Jr. were instrumental in its construction. It



Photo Taken
Circa 1906

was rebuilt in 1870 with brick. It closed its doors in 1915. The tall steeple was removed in 1947 as it was considered unsafe. The church is privately owned. If you visit the cemetery next to it, please do not trespass.

The Cabinet, June 13, 1843

SUMMER ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN SCHENECTADY AND THE FISH HOUSE.

THE United States' Mail Coach leaves Schenectady on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at half past 10 o'clock a. m. on the arrival of the railroad cars from Troy, Albany, Saratoga and Utica, the packet boats from the west and the stages from the east.

This line passes through Glenville, Charlton, West Charlton, Galway and Providence, leaving the Fish House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 7 o'clock a. m. and arrives at Schenectady in time for the Albany train and the evening boats for New-York.

Fare to Charlton Village, 37½ cts. ; to Galway, 75 cts. ; to Fish House, \$1.

Extras furnished at all hours on short notice and at reasonable charges.

EDMUND FOSTER,
may 16:13 Agent and Proprietor, at Galway.

☐ All baggage at the risk of the owners.

For more information on this cemetery, go to
www.northamptonnyhistory.com